



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 37, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 8 October 2024

Note: (DT) signifies a decision taken at Decision Time.

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Rev Aaron Moffat-Jackman, Rector of St. Saviour's Scottish Episcopal Church, Bridge of Allan and St. Modoc's Scottish Episcopal Church, Doune, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.
- 3. Challenge Poverty Week:** The First Minister (John Swinney) moved S6M-14820—That the Parliament agrees in this Challenge Poverty Week that the UK Government must reverse the introduction of means testing for the Winter Fuel Payment.

Russell Findlay moved amendment S6M-14820.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14820 in the name of John Swinney (Challenge Poverty Week), leave out from “must” to end and insert “and the Scottish Government must both reverse the introduction of means testing for the Winter Fuel Payment; notes that the Scottish National Party administration has failed to reduce poverty during its 17 years in power; recognises that the best way to tackle poverty is to provide high-quality healthcare and educational and employment opportunities for people across Scotland, with appropriate levels of housing, and condemns the Scottish Government's failure to achieve any of these objectives.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 26, Against 86 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Anas Sarwar moved amendment S6M-14820.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14820 in the name of John Swinney (Challenge Poverty Week), leave out from “agrees” to end and insert “regrets that poverty levels in Scotland are still far too high, with 30,000 more children in Scotland living in poverty compared with 2007; recognises the need to support vulnerable people through the cost of living crisis and over winter with energy bills; welcomes, therefore, the announcement by the UK Government to extend the Household Support Fund, which will deliver an estimated £41 million in Barnett consequential funding, and calls on the Scottish Government to use this funding to deliver a package of support to help low-income pensioners and households by re-establishing the Fuel Insecurity Fund; considers that reducing poverty in the long term will require action across all of the themes of Challenge Poverty Week, as supported by hundreds of anti-poverty charities and third sector organisations across Scotland, and believes that this will require progress in all of the areas of policy that have been devolved to the Scottish Parliament, including ending the housing and homelessness emergency, improving health and education outcomes, making transport more accessible, supporting people into work and creating good, well-paid jobs in all parts of the country.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 16, Against 96 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 99 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 14, Abstentions 0).

4. Revision to Business: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-14842— That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Thursday 10 October 2024—

delete

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

insert

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scotland’s Prison Population

followed by Ministerial Statement: Prosecution Guidance on Public Safety and Prison Population

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.30 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

5. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 3 as noted above.

6. Raising Awareness of Liver Disease: The Parliament debated S6M-13569 in the name of Clare Haughey—That the Parliament understands that, in the UK, there are more than 10,000 deaths due to liver disease each year, and that there has been a four-fold increase in death rates over the last 50 years; further understands that liver disease is closely linked to health inequalities, with key risk factors such as obesity, alcohol misuse and viral hepatitis most prevalent in the most marginalised and disadvantaged communities, including those in the Rutherglen constituency; understands that, while 90% of liver disease is preventable, mortality rates for chronic liver disease are now 5.5 times higher in the most deprived areas compared to the most affluent; notes the belief that greater focus on prevention and earlier detection of liver disease is essential to save lives, including through public health policies to reduce the health harms of alcohol and unhealthy food and drinks that are high in fat, salt and sugar, and pays tribute to the British Liver Trust for all of its work in raising awareness of liver disease, including through its Love Your Liver roadshow.

The meeting closed at 5.52 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
8 October 2024

Appendix
(Note: this Appendix does not form part of the Minutes)

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 4 October 2024—

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 11th Report, 2024 (Session 6):
Stage 1 report on the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets)
(Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 656)

The following report was published on 7 October 2024—

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 13th Report, 2024 (Session 6):
Remote and Rural Healthcare Inquiry (SP Paper 654)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 4 October 2024 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Title Conditions (Scotland) Act 2003 (Rural Housing Bodies) Amendment Order 2024 (SSI 2024/273)
laid under section 127(1) of the Title Conditions (Scotland) Act 2003

Property Factors (Registration) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/274)
laid under section 30(3) of the Property Factors (Scotland) Act 2011

Scotland Act 1998 (Agency Arrangements) (Specification) Order 2024 (SI 2024/989)
laid under section 115 and paragraphs 1 and 2 of schedule 7 of the Scotland Act 1998

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 7 October 2024 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Registration of Births, Still-births, Deaths and Marriages (Prescription of Forms) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/275)
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 7 October 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Independent Monitoring Authority's Annual Report to the Specialised Committee on Citizens' Rights established under the Withdrawal Agreement and the Joint Committee established under the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement (SG/2024/187) laid under Paragraph 31 of Schedule 2 to the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020

Registers of Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2023-24 (SG/2024/161) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Forestry Annual Report and Accounts 2023-24 (SG/2024/166) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 8 October 2024 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Food Standards Scotland: Our Food 2023, An annual review of food standards across the UK (SG/2024/111) laid under Section 15(6) of the Food (Scotland) Act 2015

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